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RECENT PROGRESS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM¹

By GEORGE A. DORSEY

In a previous number of the *American Anthropologist*² I presented a statement which covered the history of the Department of Anthropology of the Field Columbian Museum from its beginning to March of 1900. I shall now review the work of the department from the latter date to the present time. Inasmuch as the Field Columbian Museum begins its fiscal year on the first of October, I may consider the activities of the department from March, 1900, to October of the same year, and then review the work for the present year. I shall speak first of the accessions resulting from the various expeditions, and of other new material which has been procured by gift or purchase; and later, of the work of installation in the Museum.

ACCESSIONS

MARCH—OCTOBER, 1900

The most notable gift during this period was that of a large collection of Swiss-lake relics, presented by Vice-President Ryerson. This collection was obtained from a private collector in Berne, who had personally obtained the objects after many years of exploration in various Swiss lakes. The collection comprises over one thousand specimens, embracing all the various categories of objects usually found in a Swiss-lake collection of this magnitude. Inasmuch as the Museum possessed practically no

¹ Read before Section H, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Denver Meeting, August, 1901.

² "The Department of Anthropology of the Field Columbian Museum—A Review of Six Years," vol. 2 (N. S.), April-June, 1900.

collections representing prehistoric Europe, this gift by Mr Ryerson was most acceptable.

From the British Museum there were acquired by exchange, sixty-six selected specimens illustrating the prehistoric archeology of England down to and including the Bronze age. With the Ryerson collection of Swiss-lake relics, and with this small collection from England, it is felt that a beginning has been made toward procuring from Europe material necessary in illustrating its prehistoric archeology.

The department also obtained, by exchange from the Museum of Liverpool, a carefully selected collection of specimens from Egypt illustrating the processes of manufacture of flint implements. These specimens are similar to those described by Professor Forbes in a paper on "A Collection of Stone Implements from an Ancient Egyptian Mine."

To the already extensive and valuable collection of objects illustrating the life of the Romans, was added very important objects obtained in behalf of the Museum by Mr E. E. Ayer. This collection consists of sixteen mural paintings and additional specimens of bronze, all from the villa of Bosco Reale. These late additions, together with other bronze and glass objects, including two great bronze bathtubs, probably the finest specimens ever found in Italy, make the collection from this interesting villa a notable one. The thanks of all American classical scholars are due to Mr Ayer for the untiring energy which he has shown in obtaining this collection.

Turning to America, in addition to the acquisitions already mentioned in the paper on the department, above cited, there was obtained by Mr D. G. Elliott, Curator of Zoölogy, as member of the Harriman expedition, a very large and well-preserved totem-pole from old Tongas, a Tlingit village in southern Alaska. Inasmuch as the Museum was already in possession of three large totem-poles from neighboring Haida villages, this Tlingit column is a welcome addition.

During the months of May, June, and July, the Curator of the department made an extended journey among several western Indian reservations, with a view to more extended work in the future. During the trip, however, more than two thousand objects were collected, illustrating more or less perfectly the following tribes: Arapaho, Shoshoni, Ute and Paiute, Pomo, Hupa, Klamath, Makah, Nez Percé, Assiniboin, Yankton, Sisseton, and Cut-head Sioux. The majority of these tribes had not previously been represented in the department, consequently the collection as a whole may be regarded as one of the most notable acquisitions of material made by it in recent years. Naturally, many reservations visited did not afford exceptional opportunities for collecting, owing to the greatly changed conditions of the Indians; while on other reservations, such as the Wind River in Wyoming, the Ute in Washington, and the two Sioux reservations in Montana, extensive collections were made, and on all the other reservations, as a rule, important collections were obtained. It is interesting in this connection also to note the fact that, on certain of these reservations where much valuable material was secured, no museum collections had ever been gathered.

During this western trip of the Curator a visit was paid to an extensive and interesting aboriginal stone quarry in eastern central Wyoming. Photographs and sketches were made of the main features of the quarry, and a large collection, including hammerstones and tools of various kinds, and a full series of flakes, cores, and rejectage illustrative of the processes of manufacture of flint implements, was gathered.

In the previous account emphasis was laid on the results of the systematic attempt, which had been made possible through the great generosity of Mr Stanley McCormick, to provide a faithful museum exhibit from the Hopi Indians of Arizona, and attention was called to the fact that a series of explorations were about to be undertaken which would give the department adequate collections of the fictile ware and other grave-products of

the prehistoric Hopi. With this in view, Mr C. L. Owen spent eight months in Arizona, where he conducted a series of excavations in the ancient cemeteries of the ruins of Sikyatki, Awatobi, and Mishongnovi, all lying within sight of the present Hopi pueblos. He then proceeded about sixty miles north and excavated in the ancient town of Kish-u-u. This village, it may be said, plays a prominent part in the legendary history of certain Hopi clans, and from a spring near this ruin water is obtained for use in certain Oraibi ceremonies. As a result of Mr Owen's work in Arizona some twenty-five hundred prehistoric specimens were added to the Hopi collections, most of them being earthen vessels of the so-called yellow-ware type. The locality which yielded the most important collection was that of Old Mishongnovi, the ruins of which lie just under the shadow of and half-way down the mesa on which the present village of the same name is situated. In addition to the material procured by excavation Mr Owen acquired a large quantity of purely ethnological material, which is of the highest importance in making more complete the already extensive Hopi collections. This material consists for the greater part of Katcina masks not hitherto represented in the collections, and of *tihus*, or Katcina dolls, the majority of which are never made under ordinary conditions.

OCTOBER, 1900—OCTOBER, 1901

The energies of the department in the acquisition of new material during the present year have been exclusively confined to the North American continent.

Early in January, Mr Simms, Assistant Curator, undertook a journey in the Southwest, which lasted three months, and which had for its object the acquiring of specimens among tribes of the Piman and Yuman stocks, which, at that time, were unrepresented in the collections of the department. Mr Simms visited, in order, the Walapai, Mohave, Yuma, Pima, Maricopa, and Papago tribes, to each of which he devoted sufficient time to

make as extensive and representative a collection as is possible under the present changed conditions. From all of them he obtained some material, and from the majority large representative collections which will ultimately prove of great importance in a comparative study of the tribes of the Southwest.

In the previous paper mention also was given of two visits which the Curator had made to the Pomo Indians of California, and of his meeting there with Dr J. W. Hudson, who had become deeply interested in the Pomo, and who had made what Professor Mason has declared, in a recent number of this journal, to be "the best scientific collection of basketry known to the writer from any people on earth."¹ I was impressed at the time with Dr Hudson's knowledge of the ethnology of the Pomo, and he seemed, in my estimation, to possess in an eminent degree the qualities which would fit him to conduct an extended series of investigations among the native tribes of California. Having this in mind, I succeeded in engaging the services of Dr Hudson for the Museum in January of the present year, and after a preliminary visit to Chicago, he returned to California and began his work. Up to the present time he has covered most thoroughly the various tribes of the Mariposan and Moquelumnan stocks, and is now at work among the Pujunan. The material forwarded by Dr Hudson to date has been very great in quantity, and in character of the highest interest and value. Along with the acquisition of his great collection he has been an indefatigable investigator, and has done much work in obtaining linguistic and other ethnologic data.

To conduct work on the four Shahaptian reservations, already referred to, Dr M. L. Miller, Instructor in Anthropology in the University of Chicago, was chosen. Dr Miller, before his return to Chicago, will have spent between five and six months in the field. Not all the material obtained by him has yet been received at the Museum; but, judging from the character and quantity of

¹ Vol 2, No. 2, April-June, 1900, p. 346.

that which has been received, his investigations have been eminently successful. Necessarily it is not possible to do more than to characterize in the most general terms the various collections which Dr Miller has made, although the temptation to speak in detail concerning many of the objects is very great. The importance of the collection may perhaps best be illustrated by citing the fact that he has procured fourteen very old buckskin garments in good condition, and that he has obtained four very old buffalo parfleches with deeply incised ornamentation. Such specimens are today so rare as to be almost unobtainable.

To supplement the collection made by Mr Simms from the Piman and Yuman stocks of Arizona, Mr Owen devoted the month of April and part of May to the White Mountain Apache reservation for the purpose of gathering a collection representative of this interesting and important Apache band. The collection obtained aggregates over five hundred specimens, and is of special value from the fact that it contains a large number of the painted poncho-like shirts of the medicine-men of the Apache—specimens so rare that even hitherto they have been practically unobtainable. In addition to these garments Mr Owen collected a large amount of other ceremonial paraphernalia of the Apache, together with objects representing their everyday life.

In connection with this work among the Apache, plans were made enabling Mr Owen to spend the month of September among the Navaho, for the purpose of gathering a representative collection to supplement the not inconsiderable Navaho collection already in the Museum. It thus becomes apparent that with the material which the Museum already possessed from the collections of Mr Ayer and others, with the acquisition made by Mr Simms from the tribes of the Piman and Yuman stocks, and with the collections made or to be made by Mr Owen among the Apache and Navaho, the non-pueblo tribes of the Southwest will be represented in a comprehensive manner.

The months of May and June were spent by the Curator of

the department in Oklahoma, where he visited the Osage, the Pawnee, and the Wichita, obtaining from the three tribes about seven hundred objects. This was not to be wondered at, however, as these three tribes are extremely conservative, and, although they have long been in contact with the whites and have had access to considerable sums of money (especially the Osage, who are often spoken of as the richest of all of the American Indians), they were found to retain many ancient customs, and a careful search of the three reservations brought to light a large number of objects which had survived from the buffalo days of from twenty to more than a hundred years ago. Among the diversified categories of objects procured, of noteworthy interest are sixteen ancient buffalo-shields and a hitherto unobtainable sacred bundle of the Osage, together with a painted buffalo robe and many ancient ceremonial feast-mats and woven bags; from the Pawnee, a warrior's sacred bundle, a sacred medicine-stone, several ceremonial drums, and an unusually interesting and instructive series of games were gathered. From the Wichita, probably the most interesting objects collected were three painted buffalo hides.

To supplement the Northwest Coast collections, which, while very extensive and complete for certain localities and for certain tribes of the Northwest, are inadequate for other tribes, the service of Dr Newcombe is engaged in collecting specimens among the Haida of Queen Charlotte islands. The chief results of this work which have so far been received, consist of elaborately carved totem-poles and interesting specimens of carvings from houses, graves, etc.

Although a small acquisition, perhaps no single specimen was so highly prized as that consisting of two shields which were purchased from J. R. Roddy, a local dealer in Indian relics. These shields proved to be the identical specimens figured by Cushing in his article on "Zuñi Fetishes," in the Second Report of the Bureau of Ethnology. These shields, according to Cushing,

were the fetishes of the Zuñi Priesthood of the Bow. On one is portrayed the Knife-feathered monster, while on the other is the picture of a mountain lion and of the thunderbird. Realizing the sacredness of these two ancient specimens, I was curious to learn how they had fallen into the possession of a trader. I was informed by Mr Roddy that he obtained them from the well-known curio establishment of Jacob Gold at Santa Fé, New Mexico. Mr Gold informed me recently that he obtained them from some Santa Ana Indians, who, in turn, claimed that they had obtained them from the Apache, the latter declaring that they had secured them when on a raid against the Zuñi. A comparison of the two shields with the drawings made over twenty years ago by Cushing reveals the extreme care which he had used in making his sketches. With the exception of a lightning symbol on one of the shields, both drawings had been made with remarkable accuracy; even the holes in the shields and the thongs had been represented correctly.

Also from Mr Roddy was purchased a small collection of about one hundred objects which he had gathered from time to time during his many years of close intercourse with the Winnebago. Among the many valuable objects in this collection is a very large double-headed drum of buffalo hide, together with four colored supports used for suspending the drum above the ground. Also of interest in this collection is a large series of beautiful wooden bowls, all highly polished from long use.

From the fact that the department had come into possession of an extensive series of games, a special effort was made by correspondence to collect games of tribes not already represented in the Museum. The result showed a gratifying interest on the part of a large number of Indian agents and school superintendents on various reservations in the United States and Canada. It is now believed that the department is in possession of the most diversified and extensive collection of American games to be found in any museum.

Turning from the ethnological acquisitions of recent months to those in the field of archeology, it is a pleasure to record, first, the fact that through the continued interest shown in the department by Mr Stanley McCormick, the well-known collection of Mr Frank Wattron, Sheriff of Navaho county, Arizona, was obtained. This collection consists of three thousand objects, mainly of prehistoric Hopi pottery, and was gathered under Mr Wattron's supervision. It comprises an extensive amount of material from the ruins of Sikyatki, San Cosmos, Round Valley, Mesa Redondo, Hawikuh, and Bitta Hoochie, all of these ruins lying between the present Hopi villages and the pueblo of Zuñi. This, it is believed, is the largest private collection ever formed in this region, and, owing to its value and importance in the study of archeology, forms one of the most notable gifts in the history of the department. In connection with this acquisition may be considered the further work and exploration which, with funds also provided by Mr McCormick, Mr Owen has been conducting among the ancient Hopi ruins during the last four months. The work of exploration this year has been practically confined to an extensive series of cemeteries lying near the foot of and on the western side of the East Mesa. They were no doubt the burial grounds of the ancient town of Walpi, which formerly occupied a site near by. The graves yielded an unusually interesting amount of material, comprising some fifteen hundred earthenware vessels, a large number of utensils and ornaments of bone and stone, and over a thousand *bahos* or prayer-sticks. On account of the wide range of the *bahos* secured from the graves, and their good state of preservation, it may not unreasonably be expected that this acquisition will form one of the most important ever made in any ruin of Tusayan. Among the stone objects unearthed by Mr Owen among the graves of Walpi were six painted stone slabs which were identified by the priests as the reredos of an ancient altar. Besides the work performed at Walpi, Mr Owen conducted excavations in three other small

ruins; these yielded good results, as many specimens of great interest were recovered. Mr Owen also made many additions to the Hopi ethnological collection, especially masks, dolls, and a large number of specimens illustrating various phases of Hopi religion. With the addition of this summer's investigations among the ruins, the Museum will possess between seven and eight thousand pieces of prehistoric Hopi pottery, the majority of which are decorated with interesting symbolic figures.

Mention was made, in the former review of the department, of a collection which had been secured from the Wyman Brothers, consisting almost entirely of copper and stone implements representing the prehistoric archeology of Wisconsin. During the year an additional collection was obtained from these well-known collectors, comprising some three hundred specimens of copper and about a thousand stone implements from Wisconsin. Of the stone implements the most remarkable is a very large and beautiful stone axe, in good state of preservation, containing a number of parallel grooves running from end to end. The Museum was in possession of similar axes, but none of such size or interest as this one. The addition of the copper objects makes a total of about eight hundred from the Wisconsin region.

In addition to the copper and stone of the Wisconsin collection, there were six historic wampum belts, all well authenticated and of known origin, the best one being the so-called Oneida belt.

In May, Dr Phillips again volunteered his services to the department, and for the third time returned to the region of Mill Creek, southern Illinois, where he had been engaged in attempting the solution of the many problems presented in connection with the work of the department at this remarkable quarry. Dr Phillips concluded his work, reaching, it is believed, some interesting and important discoveries. He also visited and made sufficiently large and comprehensive collections from two quarries about thirty miles north of Mill Creek, as well as the great

novaculite quarries near Hot Springs, Arkansas, where material was gathered to supplement that already in the Museum.

The months of August and September of last year were spent by the Curator in Europe, where he visited the museums of France and Italy and attended the Paris Exposition as a national delegate to the Congrès Internationale d' Ethnologie et d' Archéologie Préhistorique. He also visited the region of the megalithic monuments in Brittany and the Etruscan tombs of Corneto in Italy. In July of this year the Curator witnessed the Cheyenne Sun-dance ceremony, and, in August, the Mishongnovi and Walpi rites of the Snake and Antelope societies of the Hopi.

INSTALLATION

Within the present limits of the space at the command of the department, it is practically impossible longer to adhere to the geographical arrangement in the installation of the material in the various groups of peoples. The attempt is still made, however, to confine collections from definite geographic areas within single or adjoining halls. To retain this scheme necessitated great changes in the Edward E. Ayer Hall, the collections of which, during the year, have been entirely reinstalled in new cases and is now confined to the tribes of the Algonquian, Siouan, and Shoshonean stocks. The acquisition of the large amount of material from California necessitated the assignment of an entire hall to this region, but it has been found that even this space will not suffice.

The increase in the collections from the non-pueblo tribes of the Southwest also demanded that an entire hall be devoted to their exposition; consequently the two halls which formerly had been devoted to South America were vacated, one being assigned to California objects and the other to those from the non-pueblo tribes of the Southwest. It then became necessary to find space for the South American collections, and in connection with this necessity it is interesting to note a further advance in the

department, which has for its object the simplification and unification of the department's aims. In my former paper I spoke of the abandonment of the collections occupying the so-called Columbus Memorial Halls for the reason that they did not appear to fall within the scope of anthropology. This left within the limits of the department three other halls, the contents of which also did not appear to come within the scope of the department, viz., two halls devoted to textile industries and one to ceramics. The textile halls were vacated and the exhibit abandoned, and in them were placed the ethnological collections from South America. The third large hall made vacant by the removal of the Columbus Memorial collections was occupied exclusively by the collections of prehistoric Hopi pottery.

The former office of the Curator was renovated, and in it has now been installed the collection of American games. The adjoining hall, formerly occupied by several large cases of musical instruments, was also vacated, the instruments having been returned to their proper places. This hall is now used for the temporary exposition of new or loan exhibits. A special room for this purpose has long been desired, and the facilities now offered for the immediate and temporary exposition of small collections is of obvious benefit.

The work of reinstallation of the collections devoted to the Northwest Coast, before referred to, has been completed, and they now occupy cases of uniform size, filling two halls. The classification and reinstallation was entirely by tribes. To one of the halls has been added a large group of seven figures made from life casts, representing the various house industries of one of the Salish tribes of Puget sound; while the other hall contains a large ceremonial group from the Kwakiutl Indians of Vancouver island.

Naturally in connection with the more important acquisitions during the last sixteen months, and in connection with the installation of the department, much work has been accomplished

along various other lines, which has taxed to the utmost the resources of the staff. Certain phases of this work are not without interest, but lack of space does not allow mention of more than two incidents. The wonderful collection made by Mr Moorehead, for the World's Columbian Exposition, in the Hopewell group of earthworks in Ohio, is generally known to students of American anthropology, but the character and nature of many of the finds made by Mr Moorehead are not so familiar. This is due to the fact that an expert preparator has been working on these collections, chiefly the copper objects, during the greater part of the last two years, and, as a result, parts of many specimens have been assembled, so that it is now possible to determine accurately many forms not hitherto known. Such, for example, are three great copper eagles, large copper breastplates of unusual form, etc.

The other feature of the year's work in connection with incidental work of installation has been the preparation by Professor Tarbell, of the University of Chicago, of full and descriptive labels for the entire collection, in the great North Court, of objects illustrating the life of the Etruscans and Romans. This includes the Etruscan rock tombs, the contents of the trench and well tombs; the original bronze, glass, and mural decorations from Bosco Reale, and the Pompeian and Herculanean reproductions. By the addition of these labels the value of these collections has been very greatly enhanced.

To characterize, in a word, the activities of the department during the last year and a half, it may be noted that special attention has been given to the acquisition of material from the tribes of North America hitherto imperfectly represented in the collections of the department. Having now reached a somewhat satisfactory condition in this regard, it is expected that in the future attention will be turned more and more to other parts of the world, which must be adequately represented if the department is to be of great general usefulness.

It is not too much to say that without the personal and always ready interest of the Director of the Museum, Mr F. J. V. Skiff, the amount of work which has been accomplished within the last sixteen months would not have been possible, and this opportunity is gladly taken by the writer to make public expression of his sense of appreciation of this interest.